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*Approved by DTR on
15 Feb to be transferred
to IS after VOS # 4*

26 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Transfer of Course Responsibilities -
Vietnam Orientation Seminar

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to request your permission to transfer the responsibilities for future presentations of the Vietnam Orientation Seminar from the Headquarters Training Branch/Operations School to the Intelligence Orientation Faculty/Intelligence School.

2. In November, 1965, the Special Assistant for Vietnam Affairs and the FE Division held a series of conferences connected with a proposed orientation course for staff officers being assigned to the Saigon Station. Members of the Intelligence School attended several of these conferences. As the nature of the orientation began to emerge the responsibility for formulating the course was shifted to the Headquarters Training Branch/Operations School, since the bulk of the support for the course was thought to be of an operational nature coming from the FE Division. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a [REDACTED] of the HI Staff was given the responsibility for continuing the discussions with the interested components as well as formulating the curriculum for the course. [REDACTED] became Chief Instructor and was in charge of the first Vietnam Orientation Seminar which was presented from 15-19 November 1965.

3. Since the VOS No. 1, we have presented two additional courses to date. Following the completion of VOS No. 3 the S/FE requested a reassessment of the course. On 25 January, [REDACTED] 25X1A9a [REDACTED], who handled VOS No. 3, because [REDACTED] had other instructional responsibilities, and I met with [REDACTED] FE. At this meeting certain modifications and improvements in the curriculum were made based upon our experience in the running of the first three courses. The details of these changes will be spelled out in the Chief Instructor's Course Report for VOS No. 3.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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25X1C 4. In addition to the changes in substance, several additional factors came out of our meeting. First of all, because of the security implications involved in exceeding the "need-to-know" principles in a number of the presentations, the future VOS Courses will de-emphasize the operational aspects. Students in the first three VOS's have consisted of a very heterogeneous mixture of DBI, DDS and DDP. The former two have very little, if any, reason to know some of the operational details which have been discussed in the past courses. In addition, some members of past and future courses [redacted] will be stationed in areas where risk of capture is possible, and, therefore, a great deal of our operational activities would be compromised if they would fall into enemy hands. As a result, in future courses there will be more emphasis on the background (political, sociological, economic, etc.) of Vietnam and the general organization and administrative problems of the Saigon Station. In other words, it will be truly an area "Orientation".

25X1A9a 5. [redacted] also advised me that there will probably be an acceleration in the training requirements connected with the VOS in the future. When we set up the course, I scheduled roughly one presentation per month through June of 1966. I had hoped that by this time the Station would have achieved its maximum personnel build-up and that we could schedule the course less often. According to [redacted], this will not be the case. He anticipates that the demands for at least one course per month will continue indefinitely. Although I have designated both [redacted] to handle the VOS, they have a full schedule of other duties connected with their primary functions in Headquarters Training. I might also point out that the responsibilities of the OTR representative in the VOS are not those requiring an instructor, but are more of a coordination and administrative nature. Therefore, I believe the time and talents of these men are not being put to the best advantage.

25X1A9a 6. For the reasons cited above, I am requesting your permission to transfer the responsibilities for future presentations of the VOS to the Intelligence School. I have informally discussed this matter with [redacted] and even suggested that [redacted] of his Staff be nominated as the OTR representative. In order to implement the agreed upon changes and achieve the required continuity, we are prepared to retain responsibility for the presentation of VOS No. 4 scheduled to take place from 23 February to 1 March, but would request this change to be made [redacted] for the VOS No. 5, 21-25 March.

[redacted]
Chief, Headquarters Training

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Vietnam Orientation Seminar

CONCUR:

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]

Chief, Operations School

Date

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[REDACTED]

Chief, Intelligence School

Date

APPROVED:

John Richardson
Director of Training

Date

cc: C/OS/TR
C/IS/TR
C/PPS/TR

25X1A9a

CH/OS/TR/[REDACTED]:meh

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